

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claim 13 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1-12 have been canceled; and claim 13 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter of Claim 13

It is appreciatively noted that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 13 has been amended accordingly. Therefore, claim 13 should be allowable.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10-12

In Section 7 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsui *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,890; hereinafter referred to as “Matsui”) in view of McKinley *et al.* (*Noise Model Adaptation in Model Based Speech Enhancement*; hereinafter referred to as “McKinley”) and further in view of Pastor (U.S. Patent No. 5,572,623). Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10-12 have been canceled.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 2 and 3

In Section 8 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsui in view of McKinley and further in view of Pastor, and further in view of Rao *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,760; hereinafter referred to as “Rao”). Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled.

§ 103 Rejection of Claim 7

In Section 9 of the Office Action, claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsui in view of McKinley and further in view of Pastor, and further in view of Komori *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,628; hereinafter referred to as “Komori”). Claim 7 has been canceled.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claim 13 is respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant’s representative at the telephone number written below.

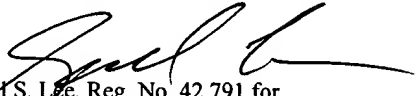
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

PATENT
Appl. No. 09/942,896
Attorney Docket No. 450100-03436

Respectfully submitted,

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